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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

Special SNB Unit Jasan

1. The unit was quartered in the Jana Rohace z Dube Barracks or 28th Inf Regt Barracks, Prague XIII-Vrsovice. (1) The unit's only designation was "Jasan". It had no number. [REDACTED] It was controlled by the Ministry of the Interior. (2) Officers included Captain Uchytal, (fnu), commanding officer, about 35 years old, a fanatic Communist; Pokorny, (fnu), adjutant, about 24 years old; Staff Captain Krejci, (fnu), unknown appointment. Most of the officers wore civilian clothes.
2. The unit was composed of five battalions (oddil) with a total of 1,200 to 1,500 men. (3)
- a. The headquarters company of the A Battalion handled supplies, accounting and post maintenance. The technical company of the battalion had about 50 men, including signal personnel, drivers and mechanics and was commanded by Sergeant Major Beranek, (fnu). Officers of the battalion included Lieutenant Salzmann, (fnu), political officer with 15 subordinated political officers; and Sergeant Major Voracek, (fnu), allegedly deputy commander of the battalion. (4) A unit designated "Javor" consisted of two companies in uniforms and one company wearing civilian clothes. This unit had only one company prior to mid-January 1950, designated "ch" and numbered about 200 men. Senior Lieutenant Trapl, (fnu), was commanding officer and Lieutenant Hartmann, (fnu), his deputy. The Javor unit was quartered in the former revenue office on Celetna ulice, Prague I, opposite the KSC central secretariat. (5) The unit was to guard offices and members of the KSC, i.e. the Prague KSC central and district secretariats, the Rude Pravo newspaper and the Svoboda publishing house. A unit designated "Prassa", probably

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subordinate to the Jasan headquarters, was quartered in the same barracks. It was activated in early April 1950, numbered 150 men and was to be increased to 400 men. The personnel wore uniforms or civilian clothes and were to guard streets, especially the Prague-Lany Street, which were used by members of the government.

b. The B Battalion was composed of four companies, each with 120 to 130 men. Company "a" and "b" were known. The unit was to guard the homes of ministers and other high-ranking government officials, such as Zapotocky, Fierlinger, Svoboda, Cepicka, Nosek and Slansky. Four men were assigned to each house. They were controlled by a main guard station in the former SNB headquarters building on Wintrova Street, Prague-Bubenec, and were relieved daily at 1 p.m.

c. The C Battalion had four companies assigned to guard duty in the ministries, and the Kerlin and Strasice radio stations, with 10 to 20-man details, and the radio building in Stalin Street, with 30 to 40-man details.

d. The D Battalion probably also had guard missions. No details were known.

e. The G Battalion was composed of four companies, one identified as "t" and another as "r". Captain Kadlec, (fnu), probably a cover name, was commanding officer. The soldiers belonged to the STB, wore civilian clothes, had cover names and special passes protecting them against political inquiries. The "r" company was to guard the missions of the Western lowers and furnish escort personnel for high-ranking officials. Other personnel of the battalion had unknown intelligence duties.

25X1X 3. In addition there was an X Company the superior headquarters and assignment of which was not known. The personnel of the unit were not allowed to talk about their duties. (6) 25X1X sometimes [redacted] Company. To enter the company quarters he was to say that he was carrying mail for "580", a number which was assumed to be a telephone number. Sergeant Major Litthart, (fnu), of "b" Company, B Battalion, once said that some sort of laboratories were located at the X Company. Several buildings of these laboratories were strictly off limits. The CO of the X Company was directly subordinate to the Ministry of Interior, according to Litthart.

4. The personnel of the Jasan Unit were reliable Communists, mostly Czechs and only a few Slovaks. New personnel came from the SNB schools. It was planned to replace all 35 to 40-year-old men with young personnel in 1950. The unit was to be reinforced by Communist industrial militia men in cases of public disturbances. The service and dress uniforms were khaki-colored. Long trousers or breeches with puttees were worn on duty, and visor-type caps on duty and with dress uniforms. Field caps were worn for field exercises. Web belts were replaced by leather belts in April 1950.

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5. Each man of the unit was equipped with a Czech 7.65-mm pistol and a model 48 submachine gun with 200 rounds. Stocks of German rifles, and German and Czech light machine guns were also available. Mine detectors were used for training purposes. There were about 140 motor vehicles, including 25 six-seater Skoda Super escort cars with flexible light machine gun, 50 Skoda Tudors, and some busses and motorcycles. It was rumored that Soviet armored cars were to be issued to the A Battalion. (7)
6. The training was restricted to firing with live ammunition and drill. Field training or exercises were not held. Some personnel of the unit attended partisan warfare courses.
7. Each company of the Jasan Unit had a group of 10 to 15 men alerted at all times in order to be in the city of Prague within 10 to 15 minutes in case of emergency. The six-seater Skoda Supers were kept ready for this purpose.
8. Colonel Vala, (fnu), living on Ujezd Street, Prague III, had conferences with the officers of the Jasan Unit twice a week.

Other Special SNB Units

9. Special SNB Unit Hrad guarded the Citadel and the Lany Castle in Prague. Its commanding officer was Lieutenant Nemeš, (fnu). (8)

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10. The Hc Unit [REDACTED] was located in the Police Barracks on Pripotocni Street, Prague XIII-Vrsovice. (9) Colonel Kovar, (fnu), the previous commanding officer, had allegedly been arrested. General Pavel, (fnu), was the highest ranking officer. The headquarters controlled SNB battalions assigned to border duty along the Czech-Bavarian and the Czech-Austrian borders and in Slovakia. The border along the Soviet Zone of Germany was guarded only by reinforced SNB border guard posts.

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Comments.

- (1) SNB Special Unit Jasan was repeatedly reported to guard the Czech Government officials, essential buildings, and foreign diplomatic missions. For sketch of quarters, see Annex 1.

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- (2) A previous report stated that all special units of the SNB were also subordinate to Unit [REDACTED]. See

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This information was not substantiated. The deserter's statement that the Jasan Unit was subordinate to the Ministry of the Interior is considered outdated since all security forces were reassigned to the Ministry of State Security established in May 1950.

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- (3) The unit numbered 900 men in May 1949. It appears probable that the personnel has been increased in the meantime.
- (4) It is possible that the A Battalion is the headquarters of Unit Jasan.
- (5) Known as an element of the Jasan Unit, Unit Javor may constitute an independent battalion within Unit Jasan. See Annex 2.
- (6) For the company's quarters see Annex 3.
- (7) For sketch of armored car to be issued see Annex 4. The sketch probably reproduces the Soviet BA-64 armored scout car, the technical data of which approach the deserters' statements.
- (8) Unit Hrad was also subordinate to the Jasan Unit in May 1949. For sketch of quarters see Annex 5.
- (9) The information [REDACTED] confirms previous data.

Annexes:

- 1. Quarters of SNB Unit Jasan in Prague-Vrsovice
- 2. Quarters of SNB Unit Javor
- 3. Quarters of X Company
- 4. Armored Scout Car Used by SNB Unit Jasan
- 5. Quarters of SNB Unit Hrad

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